

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 02378 031257Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 EB-08 COME-00
TRSE-00 OMB-01 SMS-02 /073 W
-----073597 040348Z /21

R 030801Z JUL 78
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1567
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC HOLOLU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 2378

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PINR CH

SUBJ: DISMISSAL OF MINISTER OF COMMERCE CONFIRMED

1. THE AUGUST 1 PEOPLE'S DAILY LISTED WANG LEI'S NAME
LAST AMONG THE "RESPONSIBLE PERSONS" ATTENDING THE JULY 31
PLA FESTIVITIES, WHICH STRONGLY SUGGESTED THAT EARLIER
RUMORS ABOUT HIS DISMISSAL AS MINISTER OF COMMERCE WERE
CORRECT (REF) -- A MOVE THAT HAS NOW BEEN CONFIRMED BY A
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIAL. WANG LEI IS
SCHEDULED TO LEAD AN AGRICULTURE DELEGATION TO WEST
GERMANY IN LATE AUGUST AND WAS IDENTIFIED ONLY AS A VICE
CHAIRMAN OF THE PEKING REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE IN HIS APPLI-
CATION FOR A GERMAN VISA. WANG HAD BEEN APPOINTED MINISTER OF
COMMERCE
AT THE FIFTH NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS IN MARCH,
WHEN A WEST GERMAN EMBOFF ASKED ABOUT WANG'S STATUS
AUGUST 2, A MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PROTOCOL
OFFICER STATED THAT WANG WAS "NO LONGER MINISTER
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OF COMMERCE".

2. DESPITE HIS DEMOTION TO HIS FORMER POSITION
AS VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE PEKING REVOLUTIONARY
COMMITTEE, WANG'S TRANSFER DOES NOT SEEM TO BE
POLITICALLY MOTIVATED. JAPANESE AND INDIAN EMBOFFS

HAVE HEARD THAT WANG HAS A HISTORY OF ALCOHOLISM,
WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN THE REASON FOR HIS MOVE TO A
LESS RESPONSIBLE POSITION. WOODCOCK

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Draft Date: 03 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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From: PEKING
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197808115/aaaafqn.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: f9c4f759-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
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Subject: DISMISSAL OF MINISTER OF COMMERCE CONFIRMED
TAGS: PINR, PINT, CH, (WANG LEI)
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